

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

May, 1983

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting: 6th May, "Whales in Bass Strait"

Speaker: Mr. Bob Warnecke.

Meeting: 3rd June, Stella Bedgood Memorial Lecture -

"Man, Biology and the Evolution of Land-

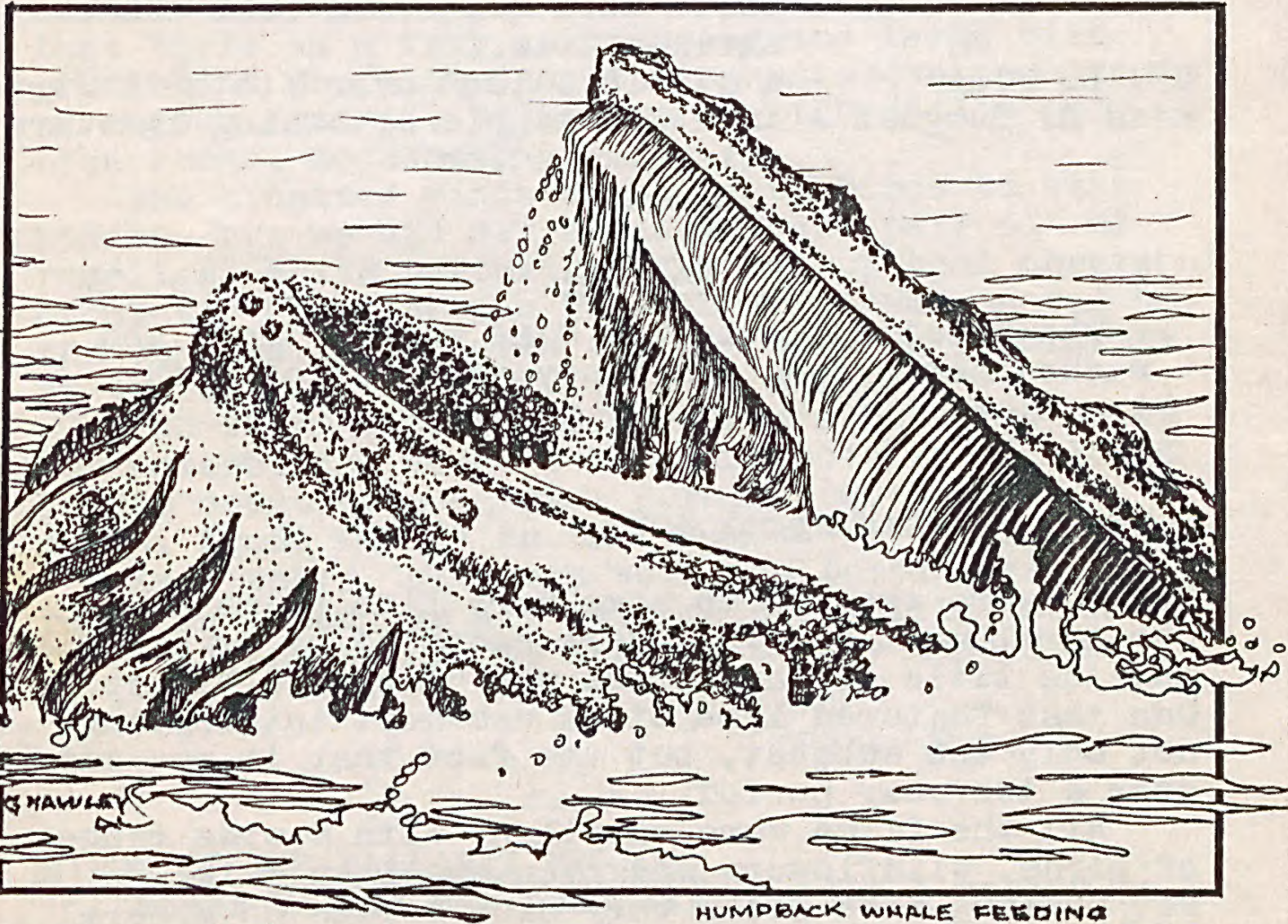
scapes". Speaker: Prof. G. Seddon. Venue:

St. Paul's Hall.

Excursion: 8th May, Mt Erip and Woody Yaloak. Full Day.

Leaders: Mr. P. Fry and Dr. F. Harrap.

Excurs: 5th June, Linton. Full Day. Leader: Mr. R. Thomas.



HUMPBACK WHALE FEEDING

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Meetings are held 1st floor S.M.B.
Barkly Street Annexe 7.30 p.m.

EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM
CROCKERS, Cnr. STURT and ARMSTRONG STREETS,
BALLARAT, AT 9.30 am FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS,
OR AT 1.30 pm FOR HALF DAY.

REPORTS: (APRIL MEETING.)

- Mr. R. Thomas - Parsons Bands at B.O.C. block
at Linton.
- Mr. G. Jamieson - two brolgas at Langi Kal Kal,
keeping measured distance from
tractor. Sheep debarking mature
Red Gums to $1\frac{1}{4}$ " deep.
- Mrs. M. Rotherham - ~~one~~ double-banded dotterel at
Apollo Bay on February 26th, the
earliest seen - eight birds seen
prior to the fires.
- Dr. F. Harrap - one double-banded dotterel at
Werribee Sewerage Farm, also a
golden plover, hundreds of pink-
eared duck and heard four eastern
shrike- tits.
- Mr. L. Fink - a little falcon over Victoria Street
- Miss H. Burgess - immature magpie attacking immature
golden whistler.

NEW MEMBER.

The President welcomed Miss Maxine Cloke and
wished her a long and happy association with
the club.

MEETING - 8th April 1983.

We were treated to some very fine films at
our April meeting. They were compiled by Mr. J. Dowling
and the title of the series was "Focus in Nature".
One that featured lyre birds was most interesting,
not only the subject, but the fact that it was made
over a two year period.

All the films were excellent with a wide range
of birds, wildflowers and even small animals.
Mr. Dowling also had a very nice series on general
scenery, including waterfalls.

All in all it was a very pleasant evening, a
little different to most of our evenings, but never-

theless most enjoyable.

Mr. and Mrs. Dowling were thanked in the usual manner.

Lyndsay Fink.

EXCURSION 10th April 1983.

Although the weather was cold and blustery, some fourteen members assembled to embark on a most enjoyable excursion, ably led by Ken Hammond. We travelled to the scrubland of Slatey Creek, a former very rich mining area.

With the many nesting sites shown to us and the information Ken was able to impart, it would seem that there is a very interesting and large bird population there. Amongst the nests shown were those of rufous fantail, yellow robin, thornbills and blue wrens, to name but a few.

The blustery winds caused many birds to stay hidden, but we did see a magnificent pair of red rosellas. While partaking of "the cup that cheers" at Slatey Creek picnic area, comment was passed on the changes in the area and the obvious popularity of the site.

The third site was St. George's Lake, to watch for waterbirds. We were not disappointed. Included in the count were egrets, cormorants, coots and ducks, found mostly in the sheltered areas.

Even there, although well sheltered by surrounding trees, we all felt rather chilly, so a farewell and thanks to Ken for a very enjoyable day.

Peter Fry.

BIRDS OF THE BALLARAT REGION.

Roger Thomas has recently published "BIRDS OF THE BALLARAT REGION" by Jack Wheeler and himself.

The handbook covers the Ballarat region, ranging

from Campbelltown to Rokewood and from Streatham to Meredith. The main text covers some 264 full species with seven species now extinct in the region. It was interesting to learn that the last emus seen in the area were an adult and two chicks at Trawalla in 1914. Again, in the 1870's, hundreds of rainbow lorikeets were shot near Linton and made into a rug for presentation to Queen Victoria. Now they are very rare, possibly extinct in the region.

The handbook is much more than just a bird list. There are four different identification keys. The first, the Common Birds key, lists 70 or so birds most commonly seen in the Ballarat region. The three complete keys, which cover every species in the region, are on Bush and Garden Birds, Birds of the Air and Open Country and Waterbirds.

The handbook concludes with a listing of "Some Good Bird Spots in the Ballarat Region". Included are the Clarkesdale Reserve (Linton), Clunes Swamp, Mt. Beckworth, Fell's Gully, Flax Mill Swamp and Spargo Creek.

The book is very up-to-date. The main references are up until 30th September 1982, with additional notes to December 1982.

I took the opportunity to dip in the text to find some of the birds which occur on the northern boundary of the region - e.g. Gilbert's whistler, red-capped robin, peaceful dove and white-backed swallow. The notes on status, abundance and distribution were very useful and in each case confirmed my own encounters with the various species.

A number of the birds are well illustrated in colour. Quite an achievement in a publication of this kind. The book should prove very useful to the beginner and to the more experienced birdwatcher and to anybody who is new to the region.

It is rightly said that the guide will be generally useful in south eastern Australia, giving as it does, details of distribution, habitat, status, numbers, arrival and departure dates of migrants and the places to find the birds.

YARROWEE PARK PROJECT.

The following plants are required for this Regional Botanical Park. Anyone seeking advice or assistance with seed or cuttings, please leave message with Mrs. N. McCallum, phone 322868 or leave phone number or address for contact.

Acacia aculeatissima	Gahnia radula
" aspera	" sieberiana
" genistifolia	Grevillea alpina
" lanigera	" lanigera
" mucronata	" repens and spp.
" paradoxa	Gynatrix pulchella
Astroloma conostephioides	Hedycarya angustifolia
Bossiaea cordigera	Helichrysum dendroideum
Calytrix alpestris	" obcordatum
" tetragona	" rosmarinifolium
Cassinia aculeata	Hibbertia stricta
" arcuata	Leptospermum lanigerum
" uncata	" myrsinoides
Comesperma ericinum	" nitidum
Coprosma hirtella	" scoparium
" quadrifida	Leucopogon virgatus
Correa reflexa	Lissanthe strigosa
Daviesia genistifolia	Micromyrtus ciliata
" latifolia	Monotoca scoparia
" mimosoides	Olearia glandulosa
" ulicifolia	Oxylobium procumbens
" virgata	Pimelea axiflora
Dillwynia cinerascens	Platylobium obtusangulum
" glaberrima	Polyscias sambucifolius
" hispida	Pteridium esculentum
" ramosissima	Pultenaea daphnoides
" retorta	" gunnii
" sericea	" humilis
Dodonea cuneata	" muelleri
Epacris impressa	" pedunculata
Eriostemon verrucosus	" scabra
Eucalyptus baxteri	Sambucus gaudichaudiana
" goniocalyx	Tetratheca ciliata
" microcarpa	

MILDURA CAMP-OUT. May 14th - 15th 1983.

W.V.F.C.A. Camp-out and Meeting, hosted by the Sunraysia Naturalists Research Trust at Mildura. Visitors are to meet at the Club Rooms at 1pm on Saturday 14th May.

WINTER SWAMP - PROGRESS REPORT -April 1983.

Cr. May Nelson of Ballarat Shire Council has been elected chairwoman of the committee, the position having been previously held by the late Mr. L Yandell.

Initial plantings at the swamp have survived the drought very well.

Students from B.Q.A.G.S. helped plant a large number of trees and shrubs during April.

A.T.C.V. Project Officers, Gayle Spicer and Robert Brouwers have been involved with the project.

Lignum has been planted.

Smaller islands may be added to the swamp.

Plans for a suitable walkway from the southern bank across to one of the nearer islands was discussed.

BITTERN LAGOON - PROGRESS REPORT - 12th April 1983.

Five labourers have started work.

200 metres of fencing completed, other major sections well underway.

Logs placed on all islands.

Mr. Bob Crocker planting seeds of Tree Violet and other species.

NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE.

The United States' Endangered Species Act requires habitat protection for threatened species as a matter of course, implements a programme of management planning and reserve creation, and requires full co-operation between government departments in protecting such animals and plants.

As one government scientist said "it's about time we didn't have to keep apologising for Victorian legislation". The CCV proposals follow up an ALP policy for new laws to better protect our wildlife. The CCV's draft legislation is now available and comments would be appreciated. Not since the creation of the first National Park has there been such a significant development in conservation. It is in the interests of all conservationists to participate fully in this work. We may never get another chance.

On the campaign front, the Native Flora and Fauna Guarantee project was begun and publicised in the last six month of the year. The response to this project from the public and from government officers has been encouraging. Late in 1982 a small grant enabled the CCV to make a very significant input to the government's MINES (Amendment) BILL deliberations. At the same time, the CCV's usual work (input to government, liaison with the media, planning appeals, submission compilation ...) continued.

In late 1982, the executive saw the need for work to develop and publicise the concept of a 'sustainable (or conserver) economy'. This project, which commenced in early 1983, has the potential to increase the CCV's contribution to the current

debate over the economy and to help form links with other environmental and welfare organisations. I hope all member groups will become involved in this very important project. We will be keeping you in touch with its progress.

(Extract from

Conservation Council of Victoria
Annual Report 1982.)



An endangered species -
The Australian Anchor
Plant,
Discaria pubescens.

Plant found at Lal Lal,
painted by Gretl Manguss.